* (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra has enacted the "Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority Act, 2005" which provides for the establishment of the Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority to regulate water resources within the State of Maharashtra, facilitate and ensure judicious, equitable and sustainable management, allocation and utilization of water resources, fix the rates for use of water for agriculture, industrial, drinking and other purposes, and matters connected herewith or incidental thereto.

Height of Mulla Periyar Dam

734. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Tamil Nadu is not being allowed to increase the storage height of water to 152 feet in stages at the Mulla Periyar Dam; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to protect the right of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Central Government is aware that there is a dispute between the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Kerala regarding the water level in Mulla Periyar reservoir beyond 136 feet (41.45 metre).

(b) The Expert committee constituted by the Government of India in June, 2000 to study the safety of the Mulla Periyar dam and advise the Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources regarding raising of water level in Mulla Periyar Reservoir beyond 136 ft. (41.45 m) submitted its final report to the Government in March, 2001 and the same has been filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as per their directions. Further action is dependent on the final judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.